
Transportation Committee

SSB 5263

Brief Description: Concerning motorcycles overtaking and passing pedestrians and bicyclists.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Benton and King).

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Substitute Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allows the operator of a motorcycle to pass a bicycle in the same lane as the bicycle is being ridden.

Hearing Date: 3/19/13

Staff: Andrew Russell (786-7143).

Background:

Motorcycles are entitled to full use of the lanes of highways. Additionally, motorcyclists may operate two abreast in a single lane. However, a motorcycle may not be operated between lanes of traffic, and an operator of a motorcycle may not pass a vehicle in the same lane as the vehicle being overtaken. Under Washington law, the definition of a "vehicle" includes bicycles.

Summary of Bill:

An operator of a motorcycle may pass a vehicle in the same lane as the vehicle being overtaken, so long as the operator passes the vehicle at a distance of at least three feet.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

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